DEPARTMENT: **NIAGARA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**
CLASSIFICATION: **NON-COMPETITIVE APPROVED BY NYSCSC 7/18/2017**
APPROVED: **DECEMBER 1, 2016**

FORENSIC CRIMINALIST I

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: The incumbent performs routine laboratory work to analyze and identify evidence in criminal cases. The work requires the application of the theory, principles and techniques of professional work in the assigned specialty area. The incumbent assists higher-level staff. Work is performed under the direct supervision of higher-level staff. Does related wok as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:
1. Performs a regimen of preliminary techniques on samples to aide in determining their contents, including possible extractions, purifications, concentrations or derivitizations;
2. Properly maintains forensic samples, adheres to logging procedures, labels cases and tracks samples from the submitting phase to the court proceedings;
3. Follows administrative guidelines for handling, analysis, and destruction of each item;
4. Performs the required competency and proficiency tests needed to satisfy the requirements for national and state accreditation;
5. Assists in complying with all health and safety procedures and protocols, which apply to forensic laboratories;
6. Testifies in court regarding laboratory analyses and the significance of the results as required.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES & PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:
Good knowledge of immunoassay, chromatographic, spectrophotometic, and spectral instrumentation; working knowledge of law enforcement practices and procedures; working knowledge of the rules of evidence as they relate to the presentation of technical analysis of criminal evidence; working knowledge of the basic principles of the chemical and biological sciences; working knowledge of the current laboratory principles, practices, techniques, procedures, instrumentation and safety used in the field of forensic science; skill in the use of personal computer; ability to operate standard laboratory equipment; ability to manage data base records, maintain accurate records and prepare reports; ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing; ability to establish and maintain effective professional relationships; organizational ability; a high degree of accuracy, initiative, motivation and sound judgment; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Graduation from a regionally accredited college or university or one accredited by the New York State Board of Regents to grant degrees with a Bachelor's Degree or higher in a natural science, a forensic science, an engineering science, or criminalistics, including or supplemented by at least twelve (12) credit hours in chemistry.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:
1. Possession of a valid New York State driver's license at time of appointment and throughout employment;
2. Successful completion of a background check;
3. Additional continuing education and training may be required as a condition of employment.

NOTE: Natural Sciences include Biology, Earth Science, Botany, Physics, Chemistry and Zoology.

Qualifications cannot be changed since jurisdictional classification was approved based on the qualifications meeting certain criteria established by NYSCSC.